

# HOUSE BILL 449

M3, M1

5lr1222  
CF SB 409

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By: Delegates Fraser–Hidalgo, S. Robinson, Anderson, Angel, Atterbeary, Barkley, B. Barnes, Beidle, Carr, Cullison, Ebersole, Frush, Gutierrez, Healey, Hettleman, Hill, Hixson, Holmes, C. Howard, Kelly, Lam, Lierman, Luedtke, A. Miller, Moon, Morales, Morhaim, Oaks, Pena–Melynk, Pendergrass, Platt, Reznik, B. Robinson, Smith, Turner, Valderrama, Waldstreicher, A. Washington, M. Washington, C. Wilson, and K. Young

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2015

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 2015

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Hydraulic Fracturing – Protect Our Health and Communities**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Department of the Environment from issuing a permit,  
4 or accepting and reviewing an application for a permit, to authorize the hydraulic  
5 fracturing of a well for the exploration or production of oil or natural gas in the State  
6 until a certain date and until a certain panel is appointed, convenes, and reports to  
7 the Governor and General Assembly on a certain date; establishing a certain panel  
8 of experts for certain purposes; requiring the President of the Senate and the  
9 Speaker of the House of Delegates to appoint a certain number of members to the  
10 panel in accordance with certain requirements; requiring the panel to be appointed  
11 and convened on or after a certain date; requiring the panel to examine certain  
12 scientific literature through a certain date; requiring the panel to report to the  
13 Governor and General Assembly on a certain date; defining a certain term; and  
14 generally relating to hydraulic fracturing for the exploration or production of oil or  
15 natural gas.

16 BY adding to  
17 Article – Environment  
18 Section 14–107.1  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(2014 Replacement Volume)

~~Preamble~~

~~WHEREAS, Exposure to the chemicals used or released in well stimulation and well stimulation related activities may pose a widespread and significant risk to public health, safety, and the environment; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Well stimulation and well stimulation related activities can involve the use of high volumes of chemicals, some of which are known to be carcinogenic, neurotoxic, endocrine disruptors, or could otherwise be harmful to human health; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Well stimulation and well stimulation related activities may release chemicals, including methanol, crystalline silica dust, hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acids, xylene, 2-butoxyethanol, naphthalene, ethylbenzene, 2-propanol, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Well stimulation and well stimulation related activities may involve the use of significant amounts of freshwater which are then permanently removed from the water cycle; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Well stimulation and well stimulation related activities may result in the emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The disposal of wastewater resulting from well stimulation and well stimulation related activities into underground injection wells in other states has been linked to increased earthquake activity; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Well stimulation and well stimulation related activities may harm wildlife, including species that are protected under federal and state endangered species laws; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Nondisclosure agreements and industry secrecy have hampered public health researchers, regulators, and policymakers; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Scientific research is only now emerging to help us understand the impacts of well stimulation and well stimulation related activities on human populations and the environment, with over 70% of such research being published since January 2013; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Emerging scientific research confirms that well stimulation and well stimulation related activities are inherently risky and there is little scientific research to support the claim that they can be carried out in a way that reduces health and environmental risks to an acceptable level; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The final report of the Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative concedes that implementing "best management practices" cannot eliminate the risks involved in well~~

~~stimulation and well stimulation related activities and that many gaps remain in the information with which it was working; now, therefore,~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Environment

14-107.1.

(A) ~~(1)~~ IN THIS SECTION, “HYDRAULIC FRACTURING” MEANS A ~~DRILLING TECHNIQUE THAT EXPANDS EXISTING FRACTURES OR CREATES NEW FRACTURES IN ROCK BY INJECTING FLUIDS, OFTEN A MIXTURE OF WATER AND CHEMICALS, SAND, OR OTHER SUBSTANCES, AND OFTEN UNDER PRESSURE, INTO OR UNDERNEATH THE SURFACE OF THE ROCK FOR PURPOSES THAT INCLUDE WELL DRILLING AND THE EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS~~ STIMULATION TREATMENT PERFORMED ON OIL AND GAS WELLS IN LOW-PERMEABILITY OIL OR GAS RESERVOIRS WHEREBY SPECIALLY ENGINEERED FLUIDS ARE PUMPED AT HIGH PRESSURE AND RATE INTO THE RESERVOIR INTERVAL TO BE TREATED, CAUSING FRACTURES TO OPEN.

~~(2) “HYDRAULIC FRACTURING” INCLUDES:~~

~~(i) FRACKING;~~

~~(ii) HYDROFRACKING; AND~~

~~(iii) HYDROFRACTURING.~~

(B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ISSUE A PERMIT, OR ACCEPT AND REVIEW AN APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT, UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO AUTHORIZE THE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING OF A WELL FOR THE EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS IN THE STATE UNTIL:

(1) APRIL 30, ~~2023~~ 2018; AND

(2) (i) A PANEL OF EXPERTS IS APPOINTED AND CONVENED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(ii) THE PANEL REPORTS TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

(C) (1) THERE IS A PANEL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, ENGINEERING, AND SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS TO:

1 (I) EXAMINE THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE RELATED TO THE  
2 PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING; AND

3 (II) ASSESS WHETHER HYDRAULIC FRACTURING CAN OCCUR IN  
4 THE STATE WITH NO DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH OR THE  
5 ENVIRONMENT.

6 (2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE  
7 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT 5 MEMBERS TO THE PANEL AND THE  
8 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES SHALL APPOINT 5 MEMBERS TO THE  
9 PANEL.

10 (3) (I) THE PANEL SHALL CONSIST OF 10 MEMBERS, INCLUDING:

11 1. AT LEAST FIVE CREDENTIALLED EXPERTS IN PUBLIC  
12 HEALTH; AND

13 2. NOT MORE THAN FOUR CREDENTIALLED EXPERTS IN  
14 SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING.

15 (II) A MEMBER MAY NOT BE EMPLOYED, DIRECTLY OR  
16 INDIRECTLY, BY:

17 1. THE STATE OF MARYLAND; OR

18 2. ANY PERSON WHO HAS DRILLED OR WHO MAY SEEK  
19 TO DRILL FOR NATURAL GAS IN THE STATE OR IN ANY OTHER STATE.

20 (4) (I) ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, ~~2022~~ 2017, THE PANEL SHALL BE  
21 APPOINTED AND CONVENED.

22 (II) THE PANEL SHALL EXAMINE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE THAT  
23 HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS THROUGH  
24 DECEMBER 31, ~~2022~~ 2017.

25 (D) ON JANUARY 1, ~~2023~~ 2018, THE PANEL SHALL REPORT TO THE  
26 GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT  
27 ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON WHETHER THE STATE SHOULD ISSUE A  
28 PERMIT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO ENGAGE IN THE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING OF A  
29 WELL FOR THE EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS IN THE  
30 STATE.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
32 October 1, 2015.